ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device for detecting the relative position of a generally horizontal reference plane of light includes a plurality of photodetector elements, a weighting circuit, and an output circuit. The photodetector elements are positioned on the device in a generally vertically oriented row. The weighting circuit provides a portion of the electrical output of each photodetector element as a first reference signal related to the spacing of the photodetector element from a first end of said row, and a portion of the electrical output of each photodetector element as a second reference signal related to the spacing of the photodetector element from the second end of said row. The output circuit is responsive to the weighting circuit for determining the relative levels of the first and second reference signals and the position of said reference plane of light with respect to the detector device.